(b) Surveys and studies for the preparation of the Regional Plan are in progress and the draft Regional Plan is expected to be ready by mid 1987.

Implementation of IRDP

819. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a study conducted by a group in Jhabua District in Madhya Pradesh about IRDP beneficiaries according to which IRDP has pushed its beneficiaries further below the poverty line;

(b) whether it is a fact that from the zero level of indebtedness in the pre-scheme period the beneficiaries have not been lifted above poverty line in the post-scheme period;

(c) if so, what corrective measures are being taken by Government in the implementation of this scheme; and

(d) whether any other instance has come to the notice of Government with similar situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (d) A copy of the study-poverty Alleviation Programme-Feed back from Jhabua conducted by Shri H. Pais and Shri C.S.K. Singh on behalf of National Labour Institute has been received. The study covers 340 households of which only 85 households were identified as beneficiaries of the IRDP and that too in only 10 out of 1760 villages of Jhabua district. The sample size is too small to come to any general conclusion. The study has pointed out weaknesses like lapse in identification faulty selection of schemes, lack of marketing facilities and non-involvement of beneficiaries etc. These are all location and family specific. On the basis of major evaluation studies carried out during the Sixth Plan a number of corrective steps have been taken to revamp the IRDP. The Concurrent Evaluation Reports on IRDP for 12 months from October 1985-September 1986 covering 16101 beneficiary households in almost all the districts of the country by 29 reputed academic/research institutions show some very positive results. The steps taken to revamp the IRDP during the Seventh Plan are given in the attached statement.

Statement

Steps taken to improve the implementation of the IRD Programme in the VIIth Five Year Plan

1. The poverty line has been kept at Rs. 6400. The income of the assisted families is to be raised to this level;

2. For identification purposes, the cut off point has been raised to Rs. 4800 per family. However, all the families with income upto Rs. 3500 have to be covered before taking up families with higher income;

3. A higher investment per family including package of assistance to enable proper return on investment, for new beneficiaries;

4. Supplemental dose of assistance of those families assisted during VIth Plan who have not been able to cross the poverty lin, for no fault of their own;

5. The approach of uniformity has been changed to one of selectivity based on poverty incidence;

6. Identification of beneficiaries must involve the people's representatives much more closely;

7. Efforts to improve the linkages through identifying bodies at district level for this purpose or the establishment of District Supply & Marketing Societies;

8. Increasing the coverage of women beneficiaries to 30 per cent;

9. Initiating a new scheme for the proper coordination of the training

effort through the establishment of Composite Rural Training & Technology Centres;

10. The administrative set up at block, district and State level should be streamlined and strengthened wherever necessary. A High Level Committee was also appointed to review the existing administrative arrangements for implementation of rural development programmes. The Committee has submitted its reports to Planning Commission;

11. Improvement in the functioning of banks, particularly at the grassroot level;

12. Creating a better climate of awareness of beneficiaries and their proper organisation;

13. A greater involvement of voluntary agencies will be sought for implementation of IRDP schemes, including TRYSEM, to enable new types of family oriented projects to be implemented in a most effective manner; and

14. A new system of concurrent evaluation on the basis of taking up 36 districts, 72 blocks and a group of 10 current beneficiaries and 10 beneficiaries who received their assistance two years ago, per month has been introduced to have a closer monitoring of the programme.

Starvation deaths in Orissa

820. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some cases of starvation deaths had recently been reported from the State of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No, Sir. The State Government has reported that there have been no starvation deaths.

(b) Does not arise.

Housing for working women

821. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the HUDCO has recently announced a scheme for working women's condominium under which houses with common facilities would be provided to working women on ownership basis;

(b) if so, how much funds has been allocated under this scheme during the Seventh Five Year Plan and how many units are likely to be built during the said plan period;

(c) what would be the cost per unit and the mode of registration under the schemes; and

(d) by when the first allotments are likely to be made together with the localities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d) Housing is a State subject and housing schemes for various categories of beneficiaries are formulated and implemented by the State Govts./ U.T. Admis. as per their local requirements and plan priorities. HUDCO has, however, suggested to the various State housing agencies that within the overall housing development programme, working women condominium on ownership basis may also be promoted so that single women may have a proper environment to live HUDCO would be able to provide funds for financing such proposals as and when received from the State housing agencies.

Subsidies on Zinc sulphate

822. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are giving incentive cash subsidy etc. to the